

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

I oppose the proposal to abandon the restriction of cable companies to 30% of the national market. I take this position because major media companies are already far too concentrated, limiting consumer choices. The number of available channels does not provide a good measure of choice, if certain views are unavailable or relegated to a backwater.

For example, I am aware of the proposal to lift the ownership cap only because I subscribe to a certain internet mailing list. The general public is completely unaware of this, because it depends to a great extent on television news - including that provided by cable companies that come under the scope of this regulation. Such companies are not about to alert the public to possible changes that are in the companies' business interest, but adversely affect the public interest.

The FCC should be considering changes that would enhance the diversity of news and entertainment options. This change goes in exactly the wrong direction.